

History of Cocke County, Tennessee

by Bill Wall

Before the arrival of European settlers, the area that is now [Cocke County](#), Tennessee was inhabited by the [Cherokee Indians](#).

In 1540, Spanish explorer [Hernando de Soto](#) (1500-1542) passed through the area now known as Cocke County, Tennessee.

In 1632, [Lt. Col. Richard Cocke](#) (1597-1665) from Devonshire, England, brought 20 families with him to the new country, where he had a grand of some 3,000 acres, which included much of the present Cocke County area.

Cocke County, TN was once a part of North Carolina, called the State of Franklin. Then it became a part of Greene County, NC and Jefferson County.

The area in today's Cocke County was settled after the first treaty with the Cherokee Indians in 1721. Most Cherokees were removed to Oklahoma in 1838 along the "[Trail of Tears](#)." The Cherokees that stayed in the Great Smoky Mountains were given a Cherokee Reservation located in Cherokee, NC.

In the winter of 1768-1769, East Tennessee and the area now known as Cocke County, began to be permanently settled, mostly from the North Carolina and Virginia states.

In 1769, the area now known as [Parrottsville](#) in Cocke County was settled. It was named for the Frenchman [John Parrott](#) (1740-1798), an early settler and Revolutionary War veteran. He received a 640-acre land grant for his service in the Revolutionary War. [John Parrott](#) was born in Tom's Brook, Shenandoah County, Virginia in 1740, and son of Frederick Parrott from Alsace-Lorraine and Barbara Edwards from England. He is buried in the Yett Cemetery in Parrottsville.

Parrottsville is the third oldest town in Tennessee (after Jonesborough and Dandridge). It is located in Cocke County on Highway 321 between Newport and Greenville, TN.

On October 29, 1771, [George Parrott](#) (1776-1861) was born in Virginia. He married [Sarah Manning](#) (1773-1861). Both lived and died in Parrottsville.

The Territory of Tennessee was annexed to North Carolina as the Washington District in 1776. It became [Washington County](#) in 1777. [Washington County](#), the birthplace of Tennessee, is the oldest county in Tennessee.

In 1777, Frethias Wall (1750-1815) married Mary Huff in Cocke County. His children included Ruth Wall, Nancy Wall, and Hepzibah Wall.

In 1779, [Jonesborough](#), the oldest city in Tennessee, was founded. It is the county seat of Washington County, TN. It was named after North Carolina legislator, [Willie Jones](#) (1741-1801)

The early settlers of Cocke County were Scotch-Irish with a few Dutch and Germans. Located within the Appalachian and Great Smoky Mountains, it had difficult conditions for early settlers. The pioneers of Cock County came down the rivers from Virginia, across the mountains from North Carolina, and up the trails from Georgia and Alabama.

During the American Revolution, the Cherokee aligned themselves with the British, and launched sporadic attacks against early Euro-American settlers in Holston valley.

In the fall of 1782, [General Charles McDowell](#) (1743-1815) of North Carolina, and his detachment, crossed the mountains and joined up with [Colonel John Sevier](#) (1745-1815). They skirmished with the Cherokee Indians in one of the Revolutionary War battles. Sevier crossed the Pigeon River at War Ford, killing several Cherokee camped along the river banks. The assault was one of the final engagements of the American Revolution.

In 1783, the first recorded European settlement occurred in what is now Cocke County. The land near the French Broad and the Pigeon Rivers was cleared and cultivated. The earliest European settlers were primarily Scots-Irish, Dutch, and Germans who came to the area over the mountains from the Carolinas or through Virginia from Pennsylvania and other northern states.

In the spring of 1783, the first permanent white settler in the present day Cocke County area was [John Gilliland](#) (1725-1795), and his wife, Elizabeth Young Gilliland. He was a Revolutionary War veteran who was wounded in the [Battle of King's Mountain](#), SC. He planted a crop of corn in the fork of the French Broad River and the mouth of the Big Pigeon River (which the Indians called Wayeh) to establish his claim to the land. He died in Cocke County.

Soon after, there was a clearing of the land adjoining William Coleman where the first cabin was built on the banks of the Big Pigeon River.

One of the earliest settlers was [George McNutt](#) (1751-1823). His daughter was the first white child born south of the French Broad River (which the Indians called Agiqua). Other families included: Doherty, McGuinn, McNabb, and Rogers.

A settlement was made north of the French Broad by a colony of Pennsylvania Germans. These families included: Boyer, Huff, and Ottinger. This area was called the Dutch Bottoms.

In the 1780s, [Peter Fine](#) (1753-1826) settled on the river opposite of Newport, TN in Cocke County. He obtained a license to run a ferry to Newport. He had the first ferry in the county.

In 1781, Catherine Meyers, the first wife of John Parrott died. He later married Louise Bean and had 14 children by her.

In 1781, Frethias Wall acquired 150 acres on the South Fork of the Holston River as the assignee of Thomas McNeil's claim. He also assigned his own claim of 300 acres on the Middle Fork to Rev. Thomas Woolsey.

Around 1783, Frederick Swaggerty, a German immigrant, arrived in the Clear Creek area from Pennsylvania.

In 1783, John Gilliland (1745-1795) settled opposite Fine's Ferry in what is now known as Oldtown.

Around 1783, Josiah, Benjamin, and Alexander Rogers moved over on the south side of the French Broad River.

In 1783, Joseph and William Doherty settled on the north side of the French Broad River above the town of Dandridge.

In 1783 Indians began to steal the cattle and horses from families who had settled along the French Broad and Nolachucky rivers. Major Peter Fine and Colonel William Lillard raised a company of 30 men and pursued them. In a battle, they killed one Indian. The Indians killed Vinet Fine, Peter Fine's brother, in an ambush. He was later put in the water of a stream, which is now known as Fines Creek.

Samuel Odell (1750-1789) was probably the first to settle in the Cosby Creek valley. He settled at the junction of the Pigeon River and Cosby Creek.

Emmanuel Sandusky (1784-1871), a Polish immigrant, established a farm on the land where the Cocke County Memorial Building in Newport now stands.

The second oldest town in Tennessee is [Dandridge](#), in Jefferson County, Tennessee, organized in 1783. In 1793, the town was officially named the county seat of Jefferson County. The town was named for Martha Dandridge Washington (1731-1802), the wife of George Washington.

On April 18, 1783, [Greene County](#), Tennessee, was established from the original Washington County, North Carolina. The county is named for Major General [Nathanael Greene](#) (1742-1786).

The present Cocke County was part of Greene County and began to be settled in 1783, along the French Broad and Big Pigeon rivers. Later, the present Cocke County was part of Jefferson County, when it broke off from Greene County (1792).

On October 21, 1783, Frethias Wall (1750-1815) was given a 47-acre land grant in Greene County.

In 1784, John Huff (1758-1843) was the first European settler in what is now Del Rio.

In 1784 the first road in the present day Cocke County (still part of Greene County) was laid out. Also, forts were built to protect them from the Indians. They were Huff's Fort, McCoy's Fort, William Whitson's Fort, and Wood's Fort.

William Whitson (1740-1819) erected a small fort just south of where Cosby Creek empties into the Pigeon River. The fort quickly grew into a small frontier outpost, complementing the fords and ferry to the north. While Cherokee raids continued, the Cosby area was largely peaceful by the early 19th century. He died in Cocke County.

In 1784 North Carolina ceded the land which is now Tennessee to the federal government. Cocke County was getting settled in a fertile section known as the "Irish Bottom."

In November 1784, the area became the [State of Franklin](#) (Frankland), which existed until 1788, but not recognized by the rest of the United States. John Gilliland took an active part in organizing the State of Franklin. The area was offered by North Carolina as a cession to Congress to help pay off debts related to the American War of Independence. It was founded with the intent of becoming the 14th state of the United States. Franklin's first capital was the town of Jonesborough.

After the [Treaty of Dumplin Creek](#) on June 10, 1785, the Cherokee influence in Cocke County began to wane. The treaty was the only such document made by the State of Franklin. The commissioner was Governor John Sevier.

John Gilliland was elected to the convention in 1785 for the state of Franklin. William Lillard was the first county (Greene County) representative in the Legislature.

In 1786, Cherokee attacks killed two O'Dells, kidnapped one of Sandusky's daughters (three-year-old Mary), and killed or scalped other settlers.

In 1786, the Big Pigeon settlement was visited by Jonathan Mulkey and William Reno, Primitive Baptist preachers.

In 1787 the [Swaggerty Blockhouse](#), near Parrottsville, was supposedly built by James Swaggerty for protection from hostile Indians. Recent archaeological evidence suggests, however, that the structure was actually a cantilever barn built by a farmer named Jacob Stephens around 1860.

On December 6, 1787, the first church in Cocke County was organized at the home of James English. The church was the Big Pigeon (Primitive) Baptist Church at Upper War Ford. In attendance was Isaac Baron and William Reno. A little after the days of the organization, owing to the hostile incursions of the Indians, the members of the church, as well as other inhabitants of the valleys of the Big Pigeon and French Broad rivers, were compelled to shut themselves up in various forts that had been erected in Cocke County. For a time, the Baptist church was abandoned.

The Methodists and Lutherans came soon after the Baptists.

In 1788, the area was protected by men such as Col. William Lillard, Lieut. Col. Abraham McKay, Maj. Peter Fine, Capt. William Job, Capt. John Fine and Capt. John McNabb.

In the 1780s, a group of German immigrants settled in the town now known as Parrottsville.

On June 11, 1792, the present day Cocke County area became part of Jefferson County, TN. It remained part of Jefferson County until 1797.

On November 24, 1792, William Anthony Harned was born in Parrottsville. He married Hannah Boyer (1792-1850). Their children were Jane (1817-1860), John Wesley (1819-1904), William Stephen (1821-1896), and David Benson (1830-1913).

On February 26, 1793, ten horses were reported as having been stolen on “Cozby’s Creek by the Indians.”

The last Indian battles occurred in 1793.

In the 1790s, the Cherokee signed a series of treaties which ceded most of the land on the Tennessee side of the Great Smokies to the U.S. government.

In 1794, the Baptists erected a church in Cocke County.

In 1795, Emmanuel Sandusky found a girl of 12, the same age as his kidnapped daughter, Mary, would have been. He purchased her and took her home. Mrs. Sandusky found a scar on the child’s arm and positively identified her as their missing daughter.

In 1796, Frethias Wall (1750-1815) was on the Greene (Cocke) County tax list and was assessed 322 acres. He was married to Mary Huff.

Tennessee did not become a bona fide state until June 1, 1796 when it was admitted to the Union as the 16th state.

On October 9, 1796, Cocke County came on its own and was named after General William Cocke (1747-1828), a native of Virginia and one of the two first US Senators from Tennessee. It is 434 square miles. William Cocke was also a Revolutionary War soldier who supported the establishment of the State of Franklin. Cocke helped write Tennessee’s first state constitution.

Parrottsville is the 3rd oldest town in Tennessee. It was settled in the 1790s by Germans and Frenchmen. The town is located along Highway 321 between Newport (6 miles north) and Greeneville.

On October 9, 1797, Cocke County was formed from part of Jefferson County, Tennessee as part of the Act of the Tennessee General Assembly. It was named for [William Cocke](#) (1748-1828), one of the state's first United States Senators. He was a Tennessee U.S. senator from 1796 to 1797 and from 1799 to 1805.

In 1797, the Gilliland family donated 50 acres of land opposite of Fine's Ferry to build New Port (Old Newport) and erect a court house and a prison with stocks.

In 1797, Frethias Wall was an executor of Thomas Woolsey Jr.'s will in Greene County.

In 1797, Frethias Wall was invited to become a member of the Big Pigeon Baptist Church in Cocke County. Frethias is mentioned in the church minutes until the year 1821.

On May 4, 1797, [Job Parrott](#) (1797-1876) was born in Cocke County. His parents were George Parrott (1776-1861) and Sarah Manning Parrott (1773-1861). He later married Sarah Swaggerty (1798-1852), also born in Cocke County.

On October 9, 1797, Parrottsville was formerly established by the Tennessee legislature. The settlement began as a 640 acre grant to John Parrott (1740-1798) and his four brothers (Henry, George, Samuel, Jacob) for their service during the Revolutionary War. Jacob Parrott's farm was the first established area of Parrottsville.

In November 1797, The Cocke County government was formally recognized. There was no official county seat until 1799 when James Gilliland donated 50 acres along the French Broad River.

In 1798, John Parrott (1740-1798) died in Parrottsville. He is buried in Yett Cemetery, He was a private in the Revolutionary War. He married Catherina Miar in 1771. He married Louisa Bean in 1781. It was thought that he had 16 children. Some of his children were Henry, John, George, and Catharine.

In 1798, Ruth Wall was born in Cocke County to Frethias Wall. She married Jacob Smith.

On March 10, 1798, [Abraham Faubion](#) (1798-1855) was born in Virginia to John Faubion (1776-1869) and Leah McKay (1777-1869). He married Nancy Wall (1803-1966) in 1819 in Cocke County, and they had 7 children. Their children

were Frethias (1819-?), Margaret (1821-1901), Mary Jane (1828-1907), William (1831-1857), Hephzibah (1832-1920), Catherine, (1843-1918), and Ruth (1845-?).

The old town of [Newport](#), Tennessee, was laid out in 1799 and was incorporated that year.

On January 19, 1799, Anna M. Parrott (1799-1866) was born in Parrottsville.

On December 29, 1799, [Catharine Parrott](#) (1799-1864) was born in Parrottsville, the daughter of John Parrott and Louise Lucy (Bean) Parrott.

In 1800 Beechwood Hall was built by [William Garrett](#) (1774-1853), just south of Fine's Ferry. Many early travelers were entertained at Garrett's mansion.

In 1800, the Methodists joined the Baptists in Cocke County when John Adam Granade (1763-1807) preached in the courthouse.

In 1800, John Gorman (1773-1850) married Mary Sandusky (1783-1852),

On March 10, 1800, [Jacob Faubion](#) (1800-1849) was born in Newport, son of John Cummin Faubion. Jacob married Hephzibah Wall (1806-1888).

On July 14, 1800, [James Swagerty](#) (1800-1885) was born Parrottsville.

On November 21, 1800, [George Parrott, Jr.](#) (1800-1863) was born in Parrottsville. His parents were George Parrott (1776-1861) and Sarah Manning Parrott (1773-1861). He married Elizabeth Boyer (1799-1862), who was born in Newport. Their child was Louis Marion Parrott (1839-1914)

In November 1800, [bishop Francis Asbury](#) (1745-1816) came to Cocke County. He is credited with spreading Methodism to the Southern Appalachian region. His journal mentions at least 12 occasions when he passed through the area.

In the early 19th century, William Faubion, who lived just northeast of New Port, managed to reach New Orleans with a flatboat shipment and return safely. "New Port", situated on the French Broad near Forks-in-the-River, quickly developed into a flatboat trading hub.

In 1801, John Adam Granade brought Methodism to Cocke County and preached at Oldtown (Newport).

In 1802, Baptist church services were held on the site of today's Clay Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

On February 26, 1802, [William B. Hudson](#) (1802-1872) was born. [William B. Hudson](#) was a Methodist minister who settled in Parrottsville. He was married to Vashti Parrott (1803-1834), then to Rebecca Hall Easterly (1803-1887). His children were Louisa C. (who married William Bryson Wall (1821-1904) in 1843), Mary S, William Henry R., and Tilman Hudson.

On August 3, 1802, a Power of Attorney letter for the estate of Henry Moyers in Cocke County listed Barbary Loveday, Elizabeth Moon, Susanna Moon, George Parrott, Henery Parrott, John Parrott, Mary Shever.

On November 16, 1802, [Moses Faubion](#) (1802-1863) was born in Bridgeport, Cocke County. He was the son of John Cummin Faubion and Leah Fabion. He married Patsy Holcomb.

In 1803, Vashti Parrott (1803-1834) was born in Parrottsville, TN.

In 1805, James Gray (1765-1860) came to Cocke County on English Creek.

On September 11, 1805, [Henry Faubion](#) (1805-1887) was born in Parrottsville, the son of John Cummin Faubion and Leah Faubion. He married Drusila.

On December 14, 1805, Samuel Parrott (1805-1873) was born in Parrottsville.

On September 22, 1806, Joseph Manning (1806-1883) was born in Cocke County, near the French Broad River. He was a Baptist minister who preached in Cocke County for 21 years. He preached in East Tennessee Baptist churches for 50 years.

On December 11, 1806, [Hephzibah Wall](#) (1806-1888) was born in Cocke County. Her father was Matthias Wall (1780-1810). Her mother was Mary, who died around 1820.

In 1807, the Legion Charcoal Furnace was built on the head waters of Meadow Creek, 12 miles northwest from Paint Rock, 12 miles east of Newport. It was abandoned around 1827.

In 1807, [Deidamia Faubion](#) (1807-1881) was born in Parrottsville to John Faubion and Leah McKay. She married Joseph Broadhurst and had 16 children.

In 1807, Mary Driscoll was born in Parrottsville.

On March 14, 1808, [Sarah Sally Faubion](#) (1773-1808) died in Newport, Cocke County, TN, and was buried in Parrottsville.

In 1808 the Methodists in East Tennessee had taken a stand against slavery. There was further influence of Quaker and Presbyterian belief.

In 1812, Thomas Bibee, a Revolutionary War veteran, settled in the area now called Bybee Lakes. The place was once called Lickskillet.

On May 24, 1811, [Parthenia Faubion](#) (1811-1860) was born in Parrottsville to John and Leah Faubion.

During the War of 1812, William Garrett (1774-1853) shipped 8 large flatboats stocked with food and whiskey to the U.S. Navy in New Orleans from Newport.

In 1812, a large Methodist revival was held at New Port's crude log courthouse, and the Zion Methodist Church was established that same year.

When General [Andrew Jackson](#) (1767-1845) called for volunteers for his second army to put down an Indian uprising in the South and to finish the War of 1812, John Faubion of Cocke County left home for the muster field with his wagon of supplies.

On October 19, 1812, New Port was officially incorporated.

In 1814, Able Gilliland built a brick structure in the Federal style, now called the O'Dell House, in Newport. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1975.

In 1814, the [Oven Creek United Methodist Church](#) was erected in Parrottsville, Cocke County. The property was owned by Jacob Easterly and his wife, Mary Bible Easterly.

On October 17, 1814, bishop Asbury lodged with the William Garrett.

In 1815, Frethias Wall (1750-1815) died in Greene County, TN

In 1816, a family named Carson received a land grant and settled in the area now known as Carson Spring. It was once a popular resort with a hotel.

On January 2, 1816, [Ellis McKendrie Parrott](#) (1816-1892) was born in Parrottsville to George and Sarah Parrott. He married Emily Jane Edgar (1818-1881).

In 1817, Daniel Cooke Buckner (1801-1883) married Mary Hampton of Cocke County.

In 1817, Isaac Allen (1817-1895) was born. He contributed land in Cocke County where residents scattered around this area were served by a church and a school. The site became known as Allen's Grove.

On May 20, 1817, [Hamilton Yett](#) (1817-1905) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1818, [Mathias Wall Faubion](#) (1818-1910) was born in Cocke County to William Faubion (1783-1839) and Rosannah Perthenia Ayers (1785-1847).

On January 22, 1818, the Slate Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Cocke County was organized by Isaac Barton, Duke Kimbrough, and Caleb Witt,

In 1819, Abraham Faubion (1798-1855) married Nancy Wall (1803-1866) in Cocke County. Their children were Frethias, Margaret, Mary Jane, William, Hepzibah, Catherine, and Ruth Ann Faubion.

In 1819, Eliza Jane Faubion (1819-1895) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1820 Anderson Academy was built in New Port. It was one of the first schools in Cocke County.

In 1820, Alzira Faubion was born in Parrottsville.

In 1820, a Methodist camp ground was established on Clear Creek in Cocke County. The principal tenters were Jacob Easterly, Jacob Faubion, William Garrett, Thomas Gray, Samuel Harned, James Gilliland, Abel Gilliland, Henry Potter, Jesse Reeve, Moses Faubion, James Holland, John Holland, Reuben Allen, Baldwin Harle, George Parrott, and Thomas Fowler.

In the 1820s, the Presbyterians erected a church on Graveyard Hill (near today's junction of US-321 and US-70).

In 1821, [Jacob Faubion](#) (1800-1849) married Hephzibah Wall in Cocke County.

In 1823, the Pisgah Presbyterian Church was organized. It later met at Anderson Academy in Cocke County.

On March 30, 1821, John Blanchard (1821-1901) was born on the French Broad River, Del Rio, to John and Sarah Blanchard of South Carolina. He was a minister and physician. He lived at the home of Alfred Lea, who was justice of the peace and the owner of a mill. He married Charlotte Justice.

On February 6, 1823, Sarah Ann Faubion (1823-1877) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1824, [Daniel Henry Netherton](#) (1804-1867) married Hannah Wall (1805-?) in Cocke County.

On September 7, 1824, John Scruggs (1797-1867) married Theresa Newell Carter, a daughter of Francis J. and Esther Crocket Carter, near Newport. She was a first cousin of [Davy Crocket](#) (1786-1836).

On June 24, 1825, Catharine Parrott (1796-1865) married George Hershel Hughes (1796-1857) in Parrottsville. Their 3 children were all born in Parrottsville.

On October 21, 1825, [Louisa C. Hudson](#) was born in Parrottsville, Tennessee. Her father was the Rev. [William B. Hudson](#) (1802-1872), also known as Hutson. He was married to Anne Stone, then to Leah Hurst. He later married [Rebecca \(Hall\) Easterly Woods](#) in 1835 in Greene County. William Hudson's other children were Mary S. Hudson (1826-1877), William Henry R. Hudson (1828-1870?), Tillman S. Hudson Sterling (1829-1900), and James M. Hudson (1834-?). Louisa married [William Bryson Wall](#) (1821-1904) in Parrottsville in 1843.

In 1826, Mary S. Hudson (1826-1877) was born in Cocke County to William B. Hudson and Vashti Parrott Hudson. She was the sister of Louisa C. Hudson (1825-1900) and William Henry R. Hudson (1828-?). She married Joseph Whitaker (1833-1885).

In 1827, Diana Faubion (1827-1904) was born in Parrottsville.

On April 26, 1827, John Rector Faubion (1827-1905) was born in Parrottsville.

On July 12, 1827, [Jacob "Dutchman" Faubion](#) died in Parrottsville.

In 1828, the Clay Creek Baptist Church was organized from the Concord Church in nearby Greene County. It was received into the Holston Association in 1828, but was dismissed from membership later that same year.

In 1828 a new brick courthouse was built in Newport to replace the crude log courthouse. The clerk of the Cocke County Court was George M. Porter, who served from 1828 to 1836. Porter was also a physician.

In 1828, [William Henry R. Hudson](#) was born in Parrottsville. In 1854, he married Eliza Baker. His sisters were Louisa C. and Mary S. His children were Allen, Sallie, Samuel, and Dora. He served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 29th Regiment, Tennessee Infantry of the Confederate Army. He died during the Civil War.

On June 7, 1828, Abraham Easterly died in Parrottsville.

In June 1828, Joseph Manning and his wife, Lucinda Huff Manning, joined the Clay Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

In November 1828, Joseph Manning attended the organization of the Primitive Association at Bent Creek as a messenger from the Clay Creek Baptist Church.

In 1829, Tillman S. Hudson was born in Parrottsville.

In 1830, Jacob Parrott, son of John Parrott, built the first house in Parrottsville, for a tavern on the Great Stage Road. It is now known as the Hale House. The tavern was patterned after the houses built by the Virginia gentry.

By 1830 Newport was a village of 150 inhabitants.

On February 10, 1830, Henry Faubion was given a land grant in Parrottsville.

In August 1832, William Bragg applied for revolutionary pension while living in Cocke County.

On August 31, 1832, John Carmichael applied for revolutionary pension while living in Cocke County.

On November 28, 1832, Thomas Palmer applied for revolutionary pension while living in Cocke County.

In 1833, the [William Wall](#) clan came from [Shelby](#), Rutherford County, NC to Parrottsville, Cocke County, 135 miles away. They stayed until 1884, when they moved to [Winlock](#), Washington.

In 1833 the William Wall (1787-1857) clan arrived in Parrottsville, Cocke County, Tennessee. They left Shelby, Rutherford/Cleveland County, NC where William Wall was a resident since 1810. He may have been born in Scotland in 1787. Along with William's wife Nancy (1792-1842), were his sons [William Bryson Wall](#) (1821-1904), Oliver Perry Wall (1824-1896), and Jesse Wall (1831-1916). William and Nancy Wall are buried in the [Faubion cemetery](#). The [Faubion cemetery](#) is on Good Hope Road.

On January 8, 1833, Nancy Jane High was born in Parrottsville. Her father was Samuel High (1809-1894) and her mother was Permelia Cureton (1810-1895).

On August 12, 1833, Baptist Elders Manning, Moore, and Henry Hunt organized the Big Creek Church, at the mouth of Big Creek, on French Broad River.

On November 24, 1833, G. G. Sims married Mary Fine, daughter of Abraham Fine, of Cocke County.

In 1833, [Joseph Whitaker](#) (1833-1885) was born in Greene County, TN. He married Mary S. Hudson in 1849. He married Sarah E. Young in 1879. He married Sarah E. McCracken in 1880. [Joseph Whitaker](#) was a Private in the Confederate States Army.

In 1834, David Weaver Day married Sarah Talley in Cocke County.

In 1834, [Vashti Parrott Hudson](#) (1803-1834) died in Parrottsville. She was married to William B. Hudson (1802-1872). Her children were Louisa C. (1825-1900), Mary S. (1826-1877), and William Henry R, Hudson (1828-1865?).

In 1834, New Port had a population of 150. The town had two general stores, two doctors, three blacksmiths, two tailors, two hatters, a wagon maker, two churches, and two taverns.

On April 14, 1834, [Robert Putnam Faubion](#) (1834-1913) was born in Parrottsville.

In August 1834, [Dorcas Smith](#) (1834-1911) was born in Parrottsville.

On January 29, 1835, William Harned was born in Parrottsville.

In 1835, a census of Revolutionary War soldiers still living in Cocke County was published.

On November 12, 1835, William B. Hudson (Hutson) married Rebecca Woods.

In December 1835, Cocke County was divided into 10 districts. Jacob Parrott's house in Parrottsville was designated as the place to hold election in the 3rd district (Parrottsville). (source: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~auntsissie/1836cocke.html>)

On August 6, 1836, Susannah Adaline "Susan" Fox was born in Parrottsville. She later married Charles T. P. Talley (1836-1863).

On September 17, 1836, Mary W. Welty (1836-1925) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1837, a meteorite, called Cosby's Creek, was discovered in Cocke County.

On January 7, 1838, [Carter B. Talley](#) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1838, the Cherokee Indians were removed from Cocke County and moved to Oklahoma along the infamous "Trail of Tears."

In April 1838, George Penland, Daniel Evans, and George W. Allen were indicted jointly and were convicted of gaming in Cocke County by Judge Anderson. They were each fined \$5.

On May 19, 1838, Joseph Manning and Moore, aided by Garrett Dewees, organized the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, six miles from Newport, on the Pigeon River. It was organized at the home of William Vinson (1777-1870).

In 1838, the name "Cosby" appears in the minutes of the Big Pigeon Church in reference to the Bethany Church that had recently been founded along "Cosby Creek." The town of Cosby was named for Dr. James Cosby, one of the first physicians to practice in Cocke County,

In 1838, Ezekiel Birdseye arrived in Newport, where he owned and operated a lumber mill. He later owned 7,985 acres, all in Cocke County.

In 1839, Ezekiel Birdseye and Judge Jacob Peck purchased a saw and grist mill, called Long Creek Mills.

In 1839, a Cocke County Tax List was created for 10 districts. Land sold for less than \$1.00 an acre.

On September 26, 1839, William Faubion (1783-1839) died in Parrottsville. He is buried in the Faubion Cemetery. He was the son of Jacob and Dianah Faubion. He was married to Rosannah Perthenia Ayers. He was a blacksmith, wagon maker, and millright.

On September 27, 1839, Josephy Talley was born in Cocke County. He married Cynthia Katherine.

In 1840, a second log building replaced the Oven Creek United Methodist Church and served until it was burned down in 1880.

The 1840 Tennessee census (reel 518, page 266) has a William Wall and wife, Nancy, with 4 boys and 5 girls.

In 1840, Professor Troost found many pieces of meteoric iron in the hands of people in Cocke County who attached great value to them.

On June 1, 1840, the Tennessee Eastern District of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services was published. From Cocke County, the pensioners were: William Bragg, age 75; Jospeh Burke, age 75; Henry Click, age 59; Darius O'Neal, age 76; Allen Seratt, age 77; Bartlett Sisk, age 79; Peter Wise, age 89; and Samuel Yeates, age 83. (source: <http://www.newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com/1840-census-of-pensioners-tennessee-ed.htm>)

In 1841, Ezekiel Birdseye (1800-1875) was a delegate that represented Cocke County at a state legislature convention. The main issue was the construction of a railroad in East Tennessee.

On February 22, 1841, [Diannah Rector Faubion](#) (1750-1841) died in Parrottsville.

In 1841, the Clay Creek Baptist Church had 41 members.

In 1842, John Blanchard was converted in a Methodist camp meeting at Parrottsville. A little later, he attended a Baptist meeting, being held by Joseph Manning in the old French Broad meeting-house. "Jack" Blanchard was profoundly stirred by the preaching, joined the Baptist church, and was baptized by Elder Manning.

In 1842, state senator [Andrew Johnson](#) (1808-1875), a resident of Greene County, Tennessee, purchased his first slave in Parrottsville. Her name was Dolly, and she was fourteen. Johnson later bought Dolly's half-brother, Sam. In 2015, a [historical marker](#) was erected at the site.

On February 5, 1842, Emeline (Acton) Faubion (1842-1928) was born in Parrottsville. She was married to Mathias Wall Faubion (1818-1910).

On March 24, 1842, John Blanchard married Charlotte Justice. Baptist Elder Joseph Manning performed the ceremony.

On March 25, 1842, Nancy (Faubion?) Wall (1792-1842), wife of William Wall (1787-1857) died in Parrottsville. Her grave is one of the oldest graves in the Faubion cemetery on Good Hope Road in Parrottsville. The cemetery is affectionately known as "Forbees" by the locals. The cemetery was founded and established by John Faubion (1776-1869). Bethel church currently maintains the Faubion grounds.

In April 1842, a slave owned by John Thomas in Cocke County killed a man by the name of Benson, wounded Thomas and his wife, and burned all his buildings.

On May 25, 1842, Jacob and Mary Eastely deeded their property to the United Methodist Church, which took the name Oven Creek.

On June 25, 1842, Joseph Manning Runyan (1842-1905) was born in Cocke County. He was a Cocke County Confederate veteran.

On August 12, 1842, Mary Lovell (1842-1916) was born in Parrottsville.

On January 24, 1843, William Bryson Wall (1821-1904) married Louisa C. Hudson (1825-1880) in Cocke County. Louisa was born in Cocke County. Her parents were the Rev. William B. Hudson (1802-1872) and Vashti Parrott (1803-1834). William Bryson Wall was a member of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and gave many sermons.

On April 3, 1843, Jaley Carter Talley was born in Parrottsville.

On July 15, 1843, Brother William Wall opened up a services at Pleasant Grove.

On August 25, 1843, there was a meeting of East Tennessee Baptist associations held at the Pleasant Grove Church in Cocke County for the purpose of adjusting doctrinal differences in regard to free salvation, etc.

On August 27, 1843, Martha Boyer (1843-1906) was born in Newport, Cocke County, TN.

On September 29, 1843, Robert L. Wall was born in Parrottsville, TN to William Bryson Wall and Louisa Wall, but died a few days later. He is buried in the Yett Cemetery in Parrottssville.

In 1843, Samuel M. Hughes was the Parrottsville, TN postmaster.

In 1843, Jack Blanchard preached his first sermon in the old brick meeting-house at the mouth of Big Creek (now Del Rio) in the French Broad River.

On June 22, 1844, Jacob Faubion (1801-1844) died in Cocke County and was buried in the Oven Creek Methodist Church Cemetery. He was married to Ruth Easterly (1805-1846).

On November 16, 1844, the United Baptist Church of Christ was formed at Butler's Meeting House.

On December 15, 1844, Mary E. Wall (died in 1900) was born in Parrottsville to William Bryson Wall and Louisa. She married Jack Blanchard, and then W.J. Lee.

In 1845, the [Salem Lutheran Church](#) was organized in the home of Michael Ottinger (1801-1877), son of John Ottinger. The pastor was the Rev. A. J. Fox. They built a log structure church.

In 1845 Oliver Perry Wall (age 21) married Nancy J. Davis (1827-1896) in Cocke County.

In 1846 Malinda J Wall (died in 1917) was born to Oliver and Nancy Wall.

In 1846, Creed F. Boyer (1846-1929), a Cocke County sheriff, was born in Cocke County. He married Florence McNabb. He had the duty of hanging two men convicted of heinous crimes. One of the hanged men was [Stephen Griffney](#).

On April 16, 1846, [George McCracken](#) (1846-1893) was born in Cocke County. He died In Parrottsville.

On November 11, 1846, [Nancy Emma Wall](#) (died in 1885) was born in Parrottsville to William Bryson Wall and Louisa C. Wall. She married Delaparis McCracken (1838-1925) in 1869.

In 1847, Clay Creek called the now Rev. Joseph Manning as pastor. He was followed by Rev. Ephraim Moore, who served until 1860.

In 1847, Hamilton Yett and Sarah Ann constructed a brick home in Parrottsville on the banks of Clear Creek. The home is registered on the National Historic Register.

In 1848, the Lutheran congregation in Parrottsville became affiliated with the Tennessee Senate Reorganized.

In 1848 Elizabeth Wall (1848-1880) was born in Parrottsville to Oliver and Nancy Wall. She married Wesley Pelicy.

On December 4, 1848, Susan Jane Wall (died in 1910) was born to William Bryson Wall and Louisa Wall in Parrottsville. She married Hazel Butler Estes (1851-1932) in 1873.

In the 1840s, the Methodist denomination divided over the slavery issue. Cocke County maintained congregations of both Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Episcopal, South.

In the 1840s, only two ministers in Cocke County openly preached abolitionism from the pulpit.

In 1849, a red brick two-story home was built by Hamilton Yett in Parrottsville.

In 1849, David Franklin Ottinger (1849-1930) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1850, Tilghman Faubion was Parrottsville's postmaster. He was a successful business man with a comfortable home and a number of slaves.

The 1850 Cocke County Census lists Perry (age 25), Nancy (age 23), Malinda (age 4), and Elizabeth (age 2) Wall. It also lists William Bryson Wall (age 29 and born in North Carolina), Louisa Wall (age 26 and born in Tennessee), Mary E. Wall (age 5), Nancy Emma Wall (age 2), and Susan Jane Wall (age 1). Also included in that family is Angeline (age 13), born in Tennessee. William Bryson Wall was listed as a farmer with land value of \$650.

In 1850 there were 1,295 families in Cocke County.

On October 13, 1850, [George P. Wall](#) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1851 Henry Wall (died in 1915) was born in Cocke County to Oliver Perry Wall and Nancy.

On January 23, 1851, Margaret Jane “Maggie” Faubion (1851-1890) was born in Parrottsville. She married Henry Girdine Blach (1843-1903). Her father was Mathias Wall Faubion (1818-1910).

In 1852 the Oliver Perry Wall family left Cocke County for Illinois and Iowa.

On March 26, 1852, Christopher Columbus Blazer (1852-1930) was born in Parrottsville.

On September 29, 1852, Vasthi C. Wall was born to William Bryson Wall and his wife Louisa. She died on October 4, 1852 and was buried in the Yett Cemetery.

In 1853, William Garrett (1774-1853) died in Cocke County.

On May 1, 1853, Ransom Fox (1853-1921) was born in Parrottsville.

On July 14, 1854, [William Jesse Wall](#) (died in 1910) was born in Parrottsville to William Bryson Wall and his wife Louisa. He married Lydia Thomas, and then [Sallie Dixon McCurley](#) (1859-1933).

On March 24, 1855, William Bryson Wall and Robert S. Roadman (1823-) had their 400 acres of land surveyed. They purchased the Bryant Lands on the waters of Clay Creek. Their land bordered the land of Weston Swatzel, John Green, J.F. Fowler, and William Evans. (source:

<http://www.sevierlibrary.org/ahgp/coc/surveys.htm>
Cocke Co Land Surveys Book E pg 29)

On November 1, 1856, [Millard F. Wall](#) (died in 1908) was born in Parrottsville to William Bryson Wall and Nancy Wall. He married Hattie Easterly.

In 1857, Hamilton Yett, son of one of the original German immigrants, built what is known as the Ellison House. It is on the National Register.

On August 7, 1857, [Samuel Yett](#) (1857-1928) was born in Parrottsville.

On Sep 4, 1857 William Wall (1787-1857) died and was buried at the Faubion cemetery off of Good Hope Road in Parrottsville. He was 70 years old. His wife, Nancy Faubion (?), died on March 25, 1842 at the age of 50. She is also buried at the Faubion cemetery. They were married in 1812 in Shelby, Rutherford County, NC. Their children were William Bryson, Oliver Perry, Jesse J, and several daughters.

On February 4, 1858, William Yett married Elizabeth Clementine Wells.

On March 24, 1858, William B. Wall and Robert Roadman were given a land grant in Cocke County.

In 1859, [Sarah “Sallie” Dixon McCurley](#) (1859-1933) was born in Parrottsville.

On August 31, 1859, [Walter John Wall](#) (died in 1886) was born in Parrottsville to William Bryson Wall and Louisa Wall. He married Florence Talley.

There were very few farmers in Cocke County that owned slaves. Cocke County was largely pro-Union on the eve of the Civil War. It was from the Methodists of Cocke County, who took a stand against slavery, and the support and influence of the Quaker and Presbyterian faiths that the “volunteers” of Tennessee became a reality for the Union.

The 1860 census of Cocke County listed William Bryson Wall (age 39) with real estate worth \$7,700 and a personal estate of \$2,182. It also listed Louisa C (Hudson) Wall (age 38), Mary E. Wall (age 15), Nancy Emma Wall (age 14), Susan Jane Wall (age 12), George P Wall (age 9), William Jesse Wall (age 7), Millard F. Wall (age 3), and John Walter Wall (age 11 months).

In 1860, Capt. [Robert Allen Ragan](#) was elected Lieutenant Colonel of the Militia.

In 1861, J.C. La Rue married Margaret J. Parrott, daughter of Samuel Parrott.

The majority of the men in Parrottsville were strong Southern sympathizers, but there still remained a large number who supported the Union. Cocke County did not have large plantations, no cotton growing in the area, very few slaves, and most people in Cocke County felt the Confederacy represented the Southern cotton plantations. The mountains were very isolated and the people living there didn't associate much with the outside world.

In Cocke County, there were enough people who appreciated the Confederacy's stand against big Federal government and for the sovereign rights of states. Men such as [Major Thomas Gorman](#) (1812-1876), [Major James T. Huff](#) (1839-1919), Edwin Allen, and William R. Smith raised whole companies of Confederate soldiers. The total number of men in Cocke County who served in the Confederate Army was just under 800, with about $\frac{3}{4}$ of them volunteering. About 600 men from Cocke County traveled north in small groups through Union lines into Kentucky to join the Union forces.

Major Thomas Gorman raised a company of Confederate cavalry from Cocke County. His brother, Captain George Gorman, led a Union cavalry company.

Captain Edwin Allen raised a company of Confederate infantry from Cocke County. Captain Andrew Allen raised a company of Union cavalry from Sevier and Cocke County.

During the Civil War, neighbors were fighting neighbors throughout the East Tennessee Mountains.

In February 1861, the State of Tennessee voted against secession by the overwhelming majority of 68,000.

On April 1, 1861, Narcissa Idella Easterly (1861-1942) was born in Parrottsville.

In April 1861, when the Civil War broke out, New Port tried to remain neutral. The town was a consistent target of raids from both Union and Confederate soldiers. The owners of Beechwood Hall buried their silver and kept their horses in the basement to prevent them from being stolen. The residents of Cocke County eventually recruited a home guard to protect them from raids, which they based at the mouth of Indian Camp Creek, a few miles south of New Port.

On June 8, 1861, a vote was taken on the Tennessee Ordinance of Secession. Cocke County residents voted 1,185 to 518 against secession. Only six counties in Tennessee voted for secession. (source: Temple, *East Tennessee and the Civil War*, 1899, p. 199)

On June 19, 1861, George Parrott (1776-1861) died in Parrottsville.

On September 6, 1861, the 26th Tennessee Infantry was organized. Company C, from Cocke County, was commanded by Captain Edward Allen. It also included

First Lieutenant A.C. Hickey, and Second Lieutenants A.H. Swaggerty and J.W. McNabb.

In November 1861, William Blount Carter of Elizabethton organized a group of Union sympathizers, called the Bridge Burners. They were successful in burning 5 of the 9 bridges in East Tennessee. Five of the burners were caught and hung. Carter was suspected, but never arrested.

In November 1861, Major Thomas Gorman returned to Cocke County to recruit more Confederates, but was bushwacked and nearly died. His wounds were so severe he couldn't recover and was discharged from service.

In 1862, about 400 Union sympathizers in the Knob Section of Cocke County evaded the Conscription Act and refused to go into the Confederate Army.

In 1862, Arthur Reed (1834-1862) was killed by his brother-in-law, William S. Jett, for wanting to join the Union Army. William Jett, who attained the rank of Captain in the Confederate Army, was an accomplice after the fact to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Jett met John Wilkes Booth on a ferry during Booth's escape and knew where he was hiding out. Jett was found by Union forces and, with a pistol to his head, gave up the location of Booth.

In 1862, the Confederates sent Colonel (later General) Danville Leadbeater (1811-1866) with his command to Parrottsville and captured 100 men in the Knob country and brought them to Parrottsville where the army was in camp. Hamilton Yett, a strong Confederate, came into camp and said he wanted "to look at the animals." This enraged [Peter Reece](#) (1827-1862), one of the prisoners, who picked up a piece of brick and threw it at Yett, fracturing his skull. The soldiers took Reece out and hung him to a tree close to the prison, where he hung for three days. His wife and other women came and took the body down and hauled it away, no man being allowed to assist them. (source: O'Dell, *Over the Misty Blue Hills: The Story of Cocke County, Tennessee*, 1951, pp. 335-336)

Henry Kilgore was a conscript officer during the beginning of the Civil War and furnished Leadbeater with all the information he could obtain as to where the Union men kept their corn, wheat, bacon, and bee gum.

William Denton of the Edwina Community helped lead a group to stop a small company of Union deserters who would hide up in the mountains and come down and rob, murder, and pillage the community. He and his neighbors waited in hiding for Union deserters and caught all of them.

Lawlessness was rampant in Cocke County during the Civil War. There were many deserters and outlaws hiding in the mountains who would murder and rob the citizens as random.

During the Civil War, Mr. Bible of Parrottsville was captured by the Rebel soldiers and carried away to Tuscaloosa, where he died.

On January 31, 1863, Florence Louisa Wall was born in Parrottsville to William Bryson Wall and Louisa.

On February 19, 1863, Jacob Click drowned while crossing a river (French Broad or Pigeon River) in Cocke County.

In the spring of 1863, the 4th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment was formed and fought for the preservation of the Union during the Civil War.

In the spring of 1863, the Eighth Tennessee Infantry was organized. Company E was from Cocke and Greene Counties and was commanded by First Lieutenant Lemuel Bible for the greater part of the time.

In July 1863, Henry Girdine Balch, a Confederate soldier from Parrottsville, was taken prisoner at Big Black River on his way to Vicksburg and remained in Federal prison until February 1865.

After July 1863, the local Confederate authorities stopped trying to round up deserters and men who were paroled by the Federal government after the fall of Vicksburg. They knew they were needed at home to protect their homes and community.

In July 1863, a group of about 100 men from Cocke County and East Tennessee reached Camp Dick Robinson, Kentucky. One of the men, Robert Ragan volunteered to return to Cocke County and recruit a Company.

In August 1863, C. F. Boyer enlisted in Company A, Third Tennessee Mounted Infantry. He served until December 1864.

In August 1863, Robert Ragan asked his Colonel for a detail of six men to go across the country about eighteen miles to visit his home and find out if any "rebels" were lurking around in the neighborhood. When they reached to within a mile of Parrottsville they sent a Union woman to the town to find an old black man by the name of Dave Roadman and tell him to come to a woodland just above the

village of Parrottsville. From him they learned that Henry Kilgore, the man who had conscripted Ragan earlier, Tillman Faubion (a strong rebel sympathizer) and Cass Turner were in Parrottsville, that Kilgore was at home and the other two men across the street at Faubion's house. Into the town of Parrottsville the Union Soldiers went. George Freshour, a Sergeant in Ragan's Company, one other man, and Ragan surrounded Kilgore's house. The other three men went to the Faubion House and captured Faubion and Cass Turner. Sergeant Freshour went to the front door of Kilgore's home and knocked, while Ragan stood at the back door and the third man at another door. Someone opened the door for Freshour but informed him that Kilgore was not there. Freshour insisted that Kilgore must be in the house. He went in and searched for him under beds and all about where he thought a man could hide, finally finding him in the kitchen crouched behind some barrels. They brought him out and took him across to the place where the other two prisoners were and immediately started with them down Clear Creek.

In September 1863, General [Ambrose Burnside](#) (1824-1881) came into Knoxville with 15,000 men and drove out the small Confederate force that was controlling the area.

In January 1864, a Confederate force under General Robert B. Vance captured some supply wagons in Sevier County that were headed to the Union encampment on the outskirts of Mossy Creek. General Vance, brother of North Carolina governor Zebulon Vance, then took a small contingent of his force and proceeded to escort the wagons toward Asheville, NC. Union sympathizers got word to the Union army of his activities and delayed his movement by cutting trees down across the road until the Union army could catch up with him. The 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment caught up with him in Cosby and captured him after a brief battle. Vance spent two years at a POW camp at Fort Delaware.

In 1864 Mary E. Wall married Jack S. Blanchard (1840-1900) in Cocke County.

On March 1, 1864, Tilghman Faubion entered as a Private in the Battalion Tennessee Cavalry, Company F, in Greene County.

On January 6, 1865, [Charles S. Wall](#) was born in Parrottsville to William and Louisa Wall. He married Idella Whisler Prigmore.

On February 14, 1865, two-year-old Joseph Yett, son of William and Clementine Wells Yett, died the night the Union men tore up the inside of Hamilton Yett's house. William Yett served in the Confederate Army as an associate of General

Nathan Forrest. After the war, he did not return to Parrottsville. He died in Georgia.

On April 9, 1865, Confederate Sergeant David Brooks was home on leave in Cocke County, checking on the condition of his pregnant wife. As he was returning to his unit, he was gunned down within a mile of his house.

On May 5, 1865, a battle took place in Waynesville between a company of men led by Colonel George W. Kirk and the remnants of Thomas' Legion, a Confederate battalion. Kirk's men were defeated and captured, with one being killed. Kirk, a Greene County native, first enlisted in the Confederate army, then deserted and became a pilot leading Union sympathizers north to join the Union army.

No major battles occurred in Cocke County during the Civil War. However, people were killed in the county during the war.

Many of the Confederate families left Cocke County after the Civil War, as it was still very dangerous for their families as the re-construction period began.

After the Civil War, Carson Springs and Sulphur Springs in Cocke County became health resorts.

In 1866, Henry Girdine Balch married Margaret Jane Faubion.

On January 6, 1866, Charles S. Wall (died in 1909) was born in Parrottsville to William Bryson Wall and Louisa Wall.

On July 24, 1866, Tennessee was readmitted to the Union.

In 1867, the Bridgeport Bridge in Bridgeport washed away in a flood. The bridge, spanning the French Broad River, was the first bridge built in Cocke County.

In 1867 the Cincinnati, Cumberland Gap, and Charleston Railroad came to Cocke County and was completed as far as Clifton, just south of New Port on the other side of the Pigeon River. Railroad stations were established at Newport and Big Creek (between Cosby and Newport).

On February 23, 1867, the minutes of the First United Methodist Church listed the following members present: W. B. Wall, Sr. (father of William Bryson Wall, Jr), W. B. Hudson (father-in-law of W.B. Wall, Jr), W. H. Cooper, W. N. Hays, and G. W. Miles.

On June 1, 1867, Florence Talley (1867-1937) was born in Cocke County. She married Walter John Wall (1859-1886).

In 1868, George W. Susong married Susan Stokely in Cocke County.

In 1868, Cora Massey Mims (1868-1956) was born in North Carolina. She moved to Cocke County about 1870. She later married W. O. Mims, a local lawyer and one of Newport's leading citizens. She was among the first persons to collect and record Cocke County's history.

In 1869 Nancy Emma Wall married [Delaparis L. McCracken](#) (1838-1925) in Cocke County.

On January 1, 1870, [Catherine McCracken](#) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1870, the Tennessee Constitution gave permission to Cocke County to allow a simple majority of the voters to determine the location of county government.

In 1870, the population of Newport was 281.

The June 6, 1870 census of Cocke County listed William Bryson Wall as a farmer with \$500 personal estate. It also listed Louisa, S.J, J.P., W.J, M.F., J. W., L. F., and C.S. They lived next door to Able and Ella Balch.

On October 13, 1870, [Ben W. Hooper](#) (1870-1957) was born in Newport. He was a successful Cocke County attorney who served as Tennessee governor from 1911 until 1915.

In 1871, several people from Cocke County filed claims with the Southern Claims Commission. These men claimed that their property had been taken by the United States military personnel for use in the Civil War. (source: <http://www.tngenweb.org/cocke/cw/cwclaims.htm>)

On December 19, 1872, William B. Hudson (1802-1872) died in Parrottsville. He is buried in Yett Cemetery.

In 1873, the original Lutheran church in Parrottsville was remodeled and enlarged. The pastor was Rev. J. C. Barb.

On January 22, 1873 Susan Wall married George William Estes in Parrottsville.

On August 9, 1873, [William B. McCracken](#) was born in Parrottsville.

In 1874, a two-story brick Masonic Hall (Newport Lodge #234 F&AM) was built in Newport. It later became a private school for white students and is still used as a Masonic Hall. Black students attended private school in a small log building that was located on the outskirts of Newprt.

Beginning in 1875, African Americans in Cocke County observed August 8 as Emancipation Day.

In 1875, the first newspaper in Cocke County was the *Excelsior Star*. It was published by Joseph Bible.

In 1875, the Blake meteorite was discovered in Cocke County and taken out by General Wilder. It weighed about 300 pounds.

On November 11, 1875, William Bryson Wall and his wife, Louisa, were in court vs. Deliah Marsh in Cocke County.

On Dec 17, 1875, George William Estes was born in Parrottsville.

In 1876 the newspaper moved to Parrottsville and was called the *Reporter*. It moved to Newport in 1877.

In 1876, C. F. Boyer was elected sheriff of Cocke County.

On July 26, 1876, [Ella McCracken](#) was born in Parrottsville.

On Dec 31, 1876 the first courthouse in Clifton (now Newport) at Newport Depot, burned down and most of the county records and land deeds were destroyed. Then the county government returned to the original site on the French Broad River.

In 1877, the Parrottsville Seminary was established.

In October 1877, President [Grover Cleveland](#) (1837-1908) visited Cocke County as part of his Goodwill Tour.

In 1878 William Jesse Wall (age 24) married Lydia Thomas in Cocke County. She died a year later.

On March 1, 1879, [Oliver R. McCracken](#) (1879-1944) was born in Parrottsville.

On November 19, 1879, [Jessie O. Estes](#) (1879-1955) was born in Parrottsville. Her parents were Hazel Estes and Susan Wall.

In 1880, the Oven Creek United Methodist Church in Parrottsville burned down.

In 1880, the population of Newport was 347. The population of Parrottsville was 100.

In 1880, William Jesse Wall (age 26) married Sally McCurley (1860-1933) in Cocke County.

In 1880, Alexander Arthur (1846-1912), representing the Scottish Carolina Timber and Land Company, arrived in Newport with plans to log the Pigeon valley.

In 1880, George Sisk wrote a letter from Texas to his relatives in Cocke County. Sisk was one of the Confederate enlistment officers of Cocke County. After the Civil War, he fled with his family to Texas. He feared for his life if he ever returned to Cocke County because of the animosity over forced Confederate conscription.

In September 1880, Elizabeth Wall, age 33, died of typhoid fever in Cocke County. (source: Cocke County, Tennessee, 1850 Mortality Schedule, Microcopy T-755, Roll 26)

On October 13, 1880, George P Wall (died in 1924) was born to William Bryson Wall and Louisa in Parrottsville. He married Della Easterly (1861-1942).

On Oct 12, 1880 T.J. Wall married Mary Solomon.

On April 7, 1881 J. Walter Wall married Florence Talley (1867-1937) in Cocke County. The officiator was T. W. Brown.

On August 8, 1881, William Bryson Wall and Louisa C. Wall made out a deed for their sons. (source: <http://tngennet.org/cocke/deedsvol4.htm>)

On November 17, 1881, [Alexa Belle McCracken](#) was born in Parrottsville.

From 1882 to 1884, [John Andrew Balch](#) (1850-1911) was a Cocke County sheriff.

In 1882, Edward Wall (1882-1972) was born in Parrottsville to William Jesse Wall and Sallie McCurley.

In 1882, the Western North Carolina Railroad was completed. Cocke County now had railroad access to Knoxville and Asheville.

In 1882, W.R. Swaggerty was elected justice of the peace in Cocke County, and was a Master Mason.

On September 12, 1882, a deed was made from Wall to Lee & Blanchard. Another deed from Wall went to Wall and Gates. (source: <http://tngennet.org/cocke/deedsvol4.htm>)

On November 11, 1882, Jesse Russell Whitaker was born in Parrottsville.

On February 6, 1883, [Jesse Edgar Wall](#) was born in Parrottsville to William Jesse Wall and Sallie McCurley Wall

On February 22, 1883, Henry Faubion deeded his Cocke County property to his son, Abraham, “on the condition that he shall take care of me during the rest of my natural life.”

On October 15, 1883, [Nannie Brandice Wall](#) was born to Walter John Wall and Florence Talley Wall.

In 1884 the entire Wall clan (43 members) left Parrottsville, Cocke County and settled in what is now Winlock, Lewis County, Washington.

In 1884, the Tennessee State Supreme Court ruled that the Cocke County seat would be at Clifton. A brick courthouse was built in 1885 and served until 1930. Clifton was renamed “Newport,” and New Port became known as “Oldport” or “Oldtown.” This the town of Newport “shifted” from its location on the flatboat-friendly French Broad River to its current location along the railroad parallel to the Pigeon River.

In 1884, the *Newport Weekly* newspaper was established.

On July 21, 1885, Joseph Whitaker died in Parrottsville.

In the spring of 1886, a cloudburst hit the Balsam Mountains near the Rigeon River’s source, and the river became a raging torrent.

In 1886, the Parrottsville Academy was established in Parrottsville. It had 4 teachers and 102 students.

On September 1-3, 1886, an epidemic hit Parrottsville with 27 deaths in 3 days.

In the 1880s, the residents of Newport converted Scottish Timber's abandoned commissary into a saloon.

In 1890, the population of Newport was 658.

In 1891, John Floyd Arrowood was born two miles west of Del Rio. He was one of the first American soldiers to be decorated for bravery in World War I.

In the 1890s, a lumber mill, the Boice Hardwood mill, was established in Hartford, adjacent to the Tennessee-North Carolina border.

In the 1890s, Elm Mill was constructed. It was placed on the NRHP in 1975.

In 1892, Kiffin Yates Rockwell was born in Newport. During World War I, he joined the French Foreign Legion. Kiffin, his brother, and a friend were the first American citizens to offer their services to France. After being wounded, he joined the Legion's aviation corps, known as the Lafayette Escadrille. He became the first American pilot to shoot down an enemy plane in combat. In July 1916, Kiffin engaged in more battles than any other pilot in French aviation. In September 1916, he was killed in a battle with a German plane.

In 1895, the A.C. Lawrence Leather Company established what eventually became one of the world's largest tanneries in Newport.

In 1897, President [William McKinley](#) passed through Cocke County.

In 1898, John and James Stokely started a family business in farming and shipping his produce all over the country. They canned vegetables they grew throughout the French Broad valley. This was to become the Stokely-Van Camp Company and is now Quaker Oats.

On December 5, 1898, Mary Willie Grace Moore (1898-1947) was born in Slabtown (now considered part of Del Rio) in Cocke County, Tennessee. Her parents were Richard Lawson Moore and Tessa Jan Stokely. She was an American operatic soprano and actress in musical theatre and film.

In 1900, the population of Newport was 1,630.

By 1900, most Cosby residents were either farmers or worked in lumber mills.

In 1910, the population of Newport was 2,003.

In 1911, Newport native Ben Hopper served as governor of Tennessee. He was governor from 1911 to 1915.

In 1913, a Cosby Academy was established by the Baptist Church Organization.

On November 14, 1917, the French government awarded John Arrowood the Croix de Guerre for the rescue of several men under his command from a raid of German soldiers on the trenches. Newspapers all over the world carried accounts of his bravery.

In 1920, the Prohibition era began. It remained in place from 1920 to 1933.

In 1920, the population of Newport was 2,753.

From the 1920s through the 1960s, Cocke County became notorious as a moonshine mecca. When Prohibition went into effect, whiskey distilling suddenly became a lucrative proposition for mountaineers searching for a way to support their families in the depressed post-World War I rural economy. The rugged topography lent itself to the secretive industry that developed here based on corn liquor, or moonshine as it came to be known.

In the 1920s, Cosby, NC was known as “the Moonshine Capital of the World.” The art of distilling was brought to Cocke County by European settlers. The term moonshine may be derived from the old British word *moonlighter*, which referred to the nocturnal practice of smuggling brandy from the European continent to the British coast.

During the 1920s, thousands of gallons of moonshine left Cocke County in nightly runs to markets as far away as Detroit, Michigan.

In the 1920s, electricity has arrived in the sawmill towns of Cocke County.

In 1923, the town of Parrottsville was incorporated.

In 1925, the Rhea-Mims Hotel was constructed and placed on the NRHP in 1998.

In 1930, the current Colonial Revival-style courthouse was built. It is on the National Register.

In 1930, the population of Newport was 2,989. The population of Parrottsville was 118.

In 1931, the Cocke County Memorial Building was constructed in Newport and placed on the NRHP in 1997.

In 1934, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established.

In 1940, the population of Newport was 3,575. The population of Parrottsville was 99.

In 1949, Parrottsville was incorporated. The only other incorporated city in Cocke County is its County Seat, Newport.

In 1950, the population of Newport was 3,892. The population of Parrottsville was 115.

In 1951, the Wilson Inn, which started out as a stagecoach terminal, burned down.

In 1960, the population of Newport was 6,448. The population of Parrottsville was 91.

During the 1960s, agents of the Department of Tobacco, Alcohol and Firearms, known as “revenueurs,” finally managed to seize and destroy the more than 100 operating stills in Cocke County, effectively putting an end to the moonshine industry.

On July 9, 1964, at 6:15 p.m., United Airlines Flight 823 (Viscount 745D 4-engine Turboprop airliner) [crashed](#) 2.5 miles northeast of Parrottsville, killing all 39 people. It was Tennessee’s worst ever airline disaster. The flight originated in Philadelphia, stopped in Washington, D.C., and was en route to Knoxville. The crash site, spread over a two-mile-long area, was on a southwest slope of a hill about 300 yards from Trenthan Hollow Road.

In 1970, the population of Newport was 7,328. The population of Parrottsville was 115.

In 1971, a plane crash occurred on a mountain in Parrottsville. Limbs were scattered everywhere and no survivors were ever found.

In 1980, the population of Newport was 7,580. The population of Parrottsville was 118.

In 1982, 40,000 marijuana plants were found growing just off Asheville Highway.

In 1983, Cocke County Sheriff Bobby Stinson was indicted along with 43 others on cocaine conspiracy charges.

In 1987, 30 people from Cocke County and Sevier County were arrested on charges relating to a car theft ring.

In 1990, the population of Newport was 7,123. The population of Parrottsville was 121.

In the 2000 census, Newport had a population of 7,242. Parrottsville had 207 people, 79 households, and 60 families residing in the town.

In 2000, the Rhea-Mims Hotel was refurnished as a home for senior citizens.

In 2009, the FBI indicted and successfully prosecuted a 23-person car theft and drug ring in Cocke County. It included a retired Newport police captain and his family.

As of the 2010 census, the population of Cocke County was 35,662. The population of Newport was 6,945. The population of Parrottsville was 263.

In 2014, the population of Newport was 6,880.

In 2015, the Parrottsville Ruritan Club sponsored two Civil War Trails Markers. One [sign](#) honors Unionist Peter Reece, who was hanged by Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. The other sign recalls the purchase of a slave named Dolly and her half-brother Sam by then state-senator Andrew Johnson in 1842. (source: http://www.newportplaintalk.com/news/article_3740b678-3d58-11e5-b50f-93489726fd2c.html)

In 2016, the population of Newport was 6,833. The population of Parrottsville was 274.

In 2017, the population of Parrottsville was 266.

Tobacco, corn, and apples are the top products of Cocke County. The county seat is in Newport. The county is 434 square miles.

Cocke County is divided into 11 districts. They were 1- Del Rio, 2- Parrottsville, 3 – Bybee, 4- Edgemont, 5- English Creek, 6- Newport, 7 –Bridgeport, 8 – Edwina, 9 – Cosby, 10 – Grassy Fork, and 11 – Hartford.

Cocke County is bordered by the following counties: Greene, Hamblen, Jefferson, and Sevier, all in Tennessee, and by Haywood and Madison counties in North Carolina.

Mount Guyot, one of the highest peaks in the Smokies, rises 6,636 feet on Cocke County's southern boundary, separating the county and the state from Haywood County in North Carolina.

There are 16 historic markers in Cocke County. (source: <http://www.lat34north.com/HistoricMarkersTN/CountyDetail.cfm?CountyNameKey=Cocke>)

The town of Parrottsville is located in northeastern Cocke County. U.S. Route 321 passes south of the town. Parrottsville is 7 miles away from Newport and 19 miles away from Greeneville.

Parrottsville Elementary School is the only school in Parrottsville and it serves grades Kindergarten to the 8th grade. High School students attend Cocke County High School in Newport.

Unincorporated communities in Cocke County include Allen Grove, Baltimore, Briar Thicket, Bridgeport, Bybee, Cosby, Del Rio, Hartford, Midway, Tom Town, and Wasp.

Other colorful names in Cocke County include: Bat Harbor, Bear Wash, Big Creek, Birdsville, Bizon, Bogart, Boomer, Broad-Axe Hill, Crippled Creek, Frog Pond, Groundhog Creek, Hen Wallow, Irish Cut, Pig Trot, Purty Holler Gap, Sharp Point, Sunset Gap, Sweetwater, White Well, Wolf Creek.

The Yett cemetery is about 3 miles northeast of Parrottsville on the southeast of Highway 321 to Greeneville, about ¼ mile south of the Salem Road turn off. It is by the site of where the old O'Haver Methodist Church used to be. The church was built on land donated by William Yett. A red brick one-story house was built around the 1930s next to the Yett cemetery by Earl Blazer.

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